

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Takayoshi HIGASHINO et al. :
Serial No. Not yet assigned : Group Art Unit:
Filed: herewith : Examiner: N/A
For: BINDER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the
application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The binder according to claim 1, characterized in that the base-forming members are common in shape and that the base is formed by combining the base-forming members.

Please add claim 4 as follows:

-- 4. The binder according to claim 2, characterized in that the base-forming members are common in shape and that the base is formed by combining the base-forming members.--

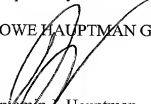
REMARKS

The above-referenced application is amended to delete the multiple dependency of claim 3 and added claim 4 for the corresponding cancelled claim.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Marked-Up Version Showing Changes".

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

binding positions when the first operating portions are moved toward each other, and

that the binding legs are released and the first operating portions move away from each other when the second operating portions are moved toward each other.

3. The binder according to claim 1 ~~[or 2]~~, characterized in that the base-forming members are common in shape, and

that the base is formed by combining the base-forming members.